

Making

January 2001

Volume 01, Number 01

The Eagles Have Landed!

by Liz Lyons, Conservation Education Consultant

BRRRR. . . this colder weather means lots of things. Fires in the fireplace, hot chocolate, building snowmen, and Ted Drewes closing for the season.

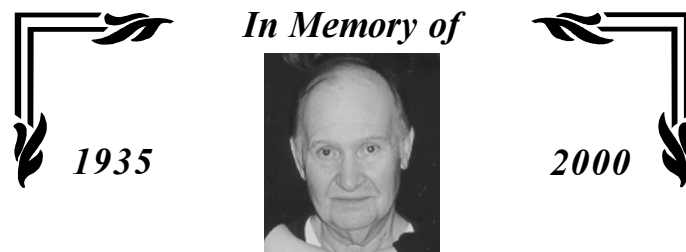
But for those of us who love nature, the cold weather means opportunity; the annual chance to see bald eagles right here in the St. Louis area.

In 1782, the bald eagle was formally adopted as our national emblem. At that time, experts believed there were probably as many as 20,000 nesting pairs of bald eagles in what is now the United States.

Over the next 200 years, however, those numbers dwindled. Bald eagles were victims of human encroachment, habitat destruction, environmental contamination, and poaching. The bald eagle population was so small that in 1978 the federal government declared the bald eagle an endangered species.

From 1981 to 1990, the Missouri Department of Conservation, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Dickerson Park Zoo, released 74 young bald eagles in Missouri to reestablish them as nesters. Efforts such as these paid off; the bald eagle has recovered dramatically. In 1995, the bald eagle's status in the U.S. was changed from endangered to threatened, where it remains today.

The Missouri Department of Conservation holds several Eagle Days events to celebrate the return of the bald eagle throughout the state. These events are often co-sponsored by other agencies, offer children's activities, and are free to the public. There are two Eagle Days events near St. Louis that the Missouri Department of Conservation sponsors. Take a couple of hours, bundle up the kids, and head to an Eagle Days event near you.



In Memory of

Bob Specht, Volunteer Naturalist

Bob Specht became a Volunteer Naturalist at Powder Valley in 1997 and had just reached the 700 hour mark. Bob loved nature and fishing, and could tell a good fish story. He loved talking with everyone -- visitors and co-workers alike. Bob even recruited relatives. His daughter, Amy, became a Volunteer Naturalist in 1999. And just recently, one of his nephews was a guest speaker at a Frontiers meeting.

Bob always had a smile on his face and jokes with punch lines that made everyone groan. Even though Bob was a diabetic, he knew the power of chocolate and would bring bags of candy in to fill our candy jar. He said that even though he could not eat sweets he wanted to see others enjoy them.

Powder Valley held a place in Bob's heart and Bob will always have a place in the hearts of everyone at Powder Valley.

Volunteer Milestones

Busch Conservation Area

Russ Anderson.....1,400 hours
Rhonda Husak.....400 hours
Gladys Kullman.....1,100 hours
Dorothy Niemeyer..1,700 hours

*Thanks for all your
effort and help!*

Rockwoods Reservation

Mary Demmitt.....400 hours
Robin Gavlick.....600 hours
Betty Lorange.....850 hours
John Schroeder.....600 hours
George Triplett.....1,800 hours
Jim Westbury.....1,800 hours

Powder Valley Nature Center

Warene Anderson..2,900 hours
Ken Barket1,700 hours
Shirley Fitzgibbons....400 hours
Priscilla Jenkins.....200 hours
Audrey Kadlec.....1,200 hours
Tom O'Gorman.....2,100 hours
Gil Rosemann.....1,300 hours
Bob Specht.....700 hours
Marjorie Yamada.....1,500 hours

EAGLE DAYS AT THE OLD CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE

January 20 - 21; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, located off Riverview Drive just south of Interstate 270, is a prime eagle-viewing location right in the city! In addition to seeing eagles, the view from the bridge also offers visitors a unique look at the Gateway Arch. Due to a bend in the Mississippi River, the St. Louis skyline appears to rise from the Illinois shore in the distance.

The Missouri Department of Conservation holds this annual eagle-watching event in cooperation with Trailnet, an organization engaged in the development of trails in the St. Louis area. Trailnet restored the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge to make it a bicycle/pedestrian trail across the Mississippi River.

At Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, there will be children's activities, a guest from the World Bird Sanctuary with a live eagle, and a storyteller. On the bridge, the Missouri Department of Conservation will have spotting scopes set up for eagle viewing.

CLARKSVILLE EAGLE DAYS

January 27 - 28; 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Another great location for spotting bald eagles is in Clarksville, Missouri at our Clarksville Eagle Days event. Clarksville is a beautiful 90-minute drive north of St. Louis along the Mississippi River.

You can begin your adventure at **Clarksville Eagle Days** by visiting the Apple Shed Theater, where live eagle programs will be presented every hour. The Apple Shed Theater also offers kids' activities sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, eagle displays, and a gift shop.

At the World Bird Sanctuary's Eagle Center, on the north edge of town, you can get tourist and eagle information, shop at another gift shop, and see a variety of live eagles from around the world. The Missouri Department of Conservation will have naturalists operating spotting scopes at River Front City Park to help you see the eagles.



News from

Powder Valley

Conservation Nature Center



Leafless Trees
Tell Their Tales

Tuesday, January 9
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

It's easy in summer to overlook problems, such as broken or poorly formed branches, fruiting bodies of a deadly fungus, or insect or bird damage to tree trunks. Winter is a good time to analyze and address otherwise hidden problems, as well as help the underground roots prepare for their annual pilgrimage into new ground. We will discuss common problems related to species and how to correct, or live with the problems. For reservations, call Charlotte Schneider at (314) 301-1500 ext. 2237.



RESIDENT ARTISAN

CORRINE DIDISHEIM

Piano Hinge Book Making
Tuesday, January 16
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up) Shake off the winter blues and let Corrine show you how to make a Piano Hinge book. This unique skill uses bamboo skewers and paper folded in a special way to create a journal or photo album or anything you can imagine.

The Art of Origami
Saturday, January 20
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up) Corrine will get our hands warm with the art of Origami or paper folding. Learn how to make cranes and frogs and other things with a simple piece of paper. **Reservations begin January 2 for both workshops. All materials will be provided.**

Help us launch our new keelboat!

by Janice Starke, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Our keelboat has arrived! A half-size, historically authentic keelboat now sits in the lobby of Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. You're invited to a Open House on Saturday, January 27, 2001 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to help us celebrate its arrival. No reservations are necessary.

Our celebration will begin with the official "launching" of the keelboat. Other festivities will include tours of the boat, refreshments, and a flag contest. At the time of the Corps of Discovery's expedition, there was no official pattern for

the American flag. It just needed to have 15 white stars on a blue *canton* (a square place in a corner) and 15 red and white stripes. Clark's journal drawing of the keelboat flag looked nothing like the Stars and Stripes we know.

Our contest will give you a chance to design and color your version of the 1804 American flag for the keelboat. We will have three age categories: 7 to 12 years old; 13 to 18; 19 and up. Guidelines and all materials will be provided. Contest participants must create the entire flag while attending the Open House. Prizes will be awarded within each age

category, and if possible, presented at the Open House. If we have an overwhelming number of entries, we will notify winners after the event. Entries will be displayed in the Nature Center for several weeks, after which they will be available for pick up.

Come help us launch not only the keelboat, but a new exciting series of programs centered on the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition.

You're Invited

**KEELBOAT
OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, January 27
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 301 - 1500

LOCATION: From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:

Daylight Savings Time:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central
Standard Time: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER

HOURS: Open all year,
7 days a week, from 8 a.m.
to 5 p.m.

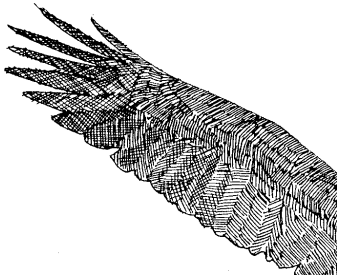
GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a
week, from 8 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

This animal can fly 20 to 40 miles per hour, but can reach speeds of more 100 miles per hour while diving.



It has a wing span reaching eight feet.

What Is It?

Local News & Events

BUSCH RANGE

Hours for January 2001:
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday - Tuesday
Closed Wednesday & Thursday
For more information,
call (636) 441 - 4554 ext. 251

HENGES RANGE

Hours for January 2001:
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday - Sunday
Closed Monday, Tuesday,
Special Events & Holidays
For more information,
call (636) 938 - 9548



TREE RINGS

The life of a tree can be measured by time, like a person's life. You can learn about a tree's life by looking at the rings of its wood. A new ring is formed each year, so you can tell how old a tree was by counting the rings on the stump. During the spring and early summer, a tree grows actively, forming the wider part of the ring. Growth slows in late summer and stops in the winter when the tree is dormant.

The size and spacing of the rings relates to the growing conditions during the tree's lifetime. A series of narrow rings indicates a period of drought or competition from neighboring trees, which slowed growth. Wide, evenly spaced rings record good growing conditions. Fire and insect damage leave scars.

Scientists study tree rings to piece together information on past climate and land use. By comparing rings from living and dead trees, they can determine the age of historical buildings by looking at the wood used in the structures.

You can read trees, too. When you pass a tree stump, or split wood for your fire, count the tree rings. If you know when the tree was cut, you can count back to the year you were born and read the history of that tree during your lifetime.

Nature Notes

SCREECH OWLS



The pint-sized screech owl doesn't give a hoot, at least not like the way its cousins do. Instead, its eerie call can send chills up your spine.

Only eight inches tall, the screech owl is about the size of a blue jay. It resembles a great horned owl in miniature, with large, yellow eyes and prominent ear tufts. Males and females look alike, but you can tell them apart when they're calling. The females have slightly higher-pitched voices. Screech owls are commonly gray in the northern states and red in the south. They live practically anywhere, from country woods to urban parks. They look for tree cavities, such as old woodpecker holes, but readily accept man-made boxes. To avoid predators, the owl perches, eats, and nests in its cavity.

Screech owls don't migrate, but they sometimes travel short distances when food is scarce. They eat almost anything that is smaller than they are. Insects, snakes, mice, rats, moles, bats, fish, and small birds may be part of their diet. In turn, screech owls become food for larger owls and hawks. There are other threats, too. Collisions with cars, a decrease in suitable cavity trees, and pesticides all pose problems.

Answer to
"What Is It?"



Bald eagle
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

VISIT US

ON THE INTERNET:

www.conservation.state.mo.us

News from
August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area

What's Happening

this month on the Busch and Weldon Spring Conservation Areas

2 January is a good time to take a winter walk. Visit the bird feeders on the Fallen Oak Trail and then warm up inside the building with a visit to the exhibit area. The exhibits feature an aquarium with fish from the Busch lakes. Can you guess how big the largemouth bass is?

2 Trout fishing is still going on at Lakes 21, 22, 23, 24 and 28. Lake 21 and 28 are catch and release, artificial lures only lakes. You can harvest fish from Lakes 22, 23, and 24, but don't forget your trout stamp.

2 Rabbits can be hunted at Busch this month, but only Monday through Friday. Quail and squirrel can be hunted on Weldon Spring until January 15. Rabbit can be hunted on Weldon Spring until February 15.

2 Busch will be hosting a managed archery deer hunt from December 26 until January 15. You must have been drawn to participate in this hunt.

Help put game thieves and fire setters out of business
1-800-392-1111

Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson are privately funded programs to help combat poaching and arson-caused forest fires in Missouri. Rewards are available for information leading to the arrest of game law violators and forest arsonists.



If you see a possible violation in progress, call your county conservation agent immediately or dial the toll-free hotline number above. All information is kept in strict confidence.



JANUARY NATURAL EVENTS

2 Beavers begin breeding this month.



2 White-tailed deer bucks begin to lose antlers.

2 Put Christmas trees on ice for fish cover or beside bird feeders for wildlife cover.

2 Look for signs of wildlife feeding on saplings. Deer will leave a ragged cut, while rabbits leave a neat 45 degree slice.

2 Observe red-tailed hawks perched along highways.

2 Ozark witch hazel begins blooming after a few days of warm weather.

2 Watch for mourning cloak and comma butterflies on warm days.

2 Squirrels bear spring litters through March.



2 Eastern moles are active in deep tunnels underground.

2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441 - 4554

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles.
From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS: Area is open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. October 1 through March 31. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. October 1 through March 31. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30 only. Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA: 6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits, demonstration sites, and is used by bicyclists.

This animal's diet consists mainly of fish. It has 2-inch talons used to catch its prey.

Its vision is five to six times sharper than a human's.

What Is It?

News from
Rockwoods Reservation

This animal is capable of flying up to 300 miles a day and weighs 8-14 pounds.



It can have more than 7,000 contour feathers. The weight of the feathers is more than twice the weight of its skeleton.

What Is It?



The Holidays Are Over...
What Do I Do With My Tree?

by Tom Meister, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Every year about this time as the holidays wind down and we take our decorations down marking the end of another holiday season, we are left with a tree and a question. "What can I do with it?" The answer is recycling your tree. "How do I recycle it?" You can recycle it many different ways. One of the easiest is to make a brush pile in your backyard. Nearly all animals need cover so they can escape from predators, rest in safety, nest, and raise their young. What constitutes suitable cover depends on the wildlife species. Some animals use hollow trees, while others use brushy areas and dense stands of grass. To several species of small mammals, ground-nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles, brush piles represent an important type of cover. Brush piles located in the

right place brings the quickest response of all the management tools. Rabbits often take over a brush pile the night after construction. Proper placement of brush piles allows relatively safe access to food sources and permits wildlife to forage over a large area. Brush piles should be placed at intervals near feeding areas, along field borders and within idle fields. Avoid the bottoms of drainages and low spots where water might render the brush pile useless. Discarded Christmas trees, without tinsel, make ideal brush piles that will last several years. To make them even more effective, place an old pallet or similar material on the ground and then pile the trees on top.

If you have a pond or lake or if there is one in your neighborhood, brush piles can provide important

habitat for fish. They too need cover so they can escape from predators and rest in safety. If you don't have a pond or an area to build a brush pile, you can still contribute to recycling and improving wildlife habitat, by bringing your tree to Rockwoods Reservation. We will use some of the trees to construct brush piles for wildlife habitat on our area. The remainder of the trees will be chipped into mulch, which will be available to the public for free!

Before dropping off your tree for recycling, please remove tinsel, ornaments, and the plastic bag in which you transport it. For a list of where you can recycle your tree in your area and additional information regarding recycling your tree, contact Rockwoods Reservation at (636) 458-2236.



2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
(636) 458 - 2236

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs. From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Highway 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs. From Manchester Road, take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS: Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER

HOURS: Open seven days a week all year, except holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public including:
u Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
u 1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
u Two picnic areas (one with charcoal grills) with drinking water, tables, and toilets.
u Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.

How to register for a JANUARY Program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. Groups may inquire for separate programs. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. **Please be prompt.** **Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advanced notice.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

11 Toddling Into Nature: Cave Bubble

Thursday 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
& 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) There is a whole world living underground. Join us as we investigate who lives inside caves by exploring our cave bubble. This program is indoors. (Reservations begin January 2.)

13 Knock on Wood

Saturday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

(Families) Which birds are perhaps Missouri's most active and visible winter residents? (Drumroll please. . .) Woodpeckers! Life as a woodpecker has its



crowning glories and hard knocks. We'll take a short hike to look (and listen) for woodpeckers at work; so please dress for the weather. We'll also create a woodpecker feeder to take home. (Reservations begin January 2.)

16 Sealed Garden

Tuesday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

(Families) January is the perfect time to plant a garden... indoors, that is. We'll create a miniature ecosystem where you can watch the water cycle at work. (Reservations begin January 2.)

20 Bird Feeding Workshop

Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Families) Learn what weeds attract birds and then build a feeder (one per family) to take home to try out your new knowledge. (Reservations begin January 5.)



24 Winter Wonderland (Homeschool Special)

Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) Want to go to a place where the temperature stays the same and creatures are active year round? Join us as we investigate Hamilton Spring and see why this area is so special this time of year. This program is outdoors, so dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 10.)



Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. Groups may inquire for separate programs. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. **Please be prompt.** **Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advanced notice.

BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

Unless otherwise specified, all programs are one hour in length.

6 Winter Nature Hike

Saturday 9:00 a.m.

(Families) Explore the beautiful winter woods. We will search for animal signs and see what is happening during the winter season. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. (Reservations begin December 22.)

10 Owl Food

Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) What does an owl eat? How does it eat? Come and discover for yourself as you dissect owl pellets. (Reservations begin December 27.)



13 Lewis and Clark Hike

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Adults) Join us on this 5-mile hike through scenic rugged terrain. It's a wonderful way to spend a winter morning. Please bring water and dress for the weather. (Reservations begin December 29.)

13 Owl Prowl

Saturday

(Families)

6:00 p.m.

(Adults) 7:30 p.m.

Join us in a search for these evening predators. We will learn about owls and then take a hike into the woods to try to find them. (Reservations begin December 29.)



16 Real Bear/Teddy Bear

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Where do bears go and what do they do in the winter? Bring along your favorite teddy bear and learn how it is different from a real bear. (Reservations begin January 2.)

23 Snakessssss

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

(Families) Can you tell one snake from the other? What do snakes do in the winter? You will have these and more questions answered in this fun, interactive program. (Reservations begin January 9.)



24 Eagles

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Preschoolers will discover what makes an eagle an eagle! Where they live, what they eat, and what they need to survive will be discussed. (Reservations begin January 10.)

EAGLE DAYS ARE HERE!

Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

January 20 - 21
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Clarksville Eagle Days

January 27 - 28
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

See page 1 for details.

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

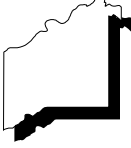
Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Age 3 - 6 program.

3 & 17

Missouri Literature

Wednesday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

(Adults) This will be a presentation of literature relating to history, nature and traveling in Missouri.

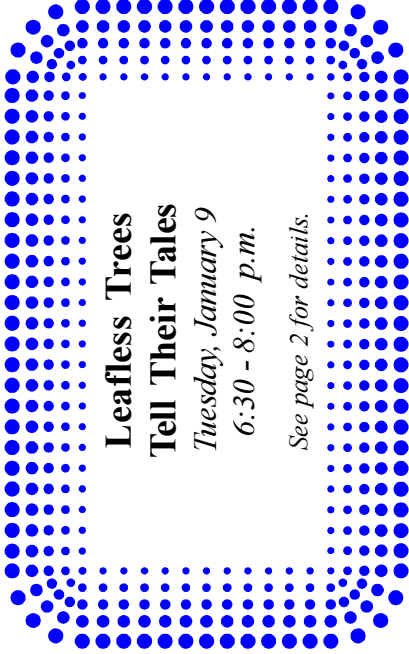


(Reservations begin December 20 and January 3, respectively.)

25 Rocking Chair Storytime

Thursday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

(All Ages) Come and enjoy a fun-packed hour of hearing stories, using puppets, and experiencing surprises galore! (Reservations begin January 11.)



Leafless Trees

Tell Their Tales

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

See page 2 for details.



RESIDENT ARTISAN



Join Resident Artisan Corrine Didisheim
for these workshops:

Piano Hinge Book Making

Tuesday, January 16

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Art of Origami

Saturday, January 20

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

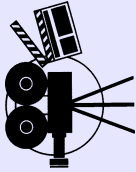
See page 2 for details.

DON'T MISS THE BOAT! KEELBOAT OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 27

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

See page 2 for details.



FREE NATURE FILMS

Every Saturday and Sunday

Children's films

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

& 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Films for older audiences

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

& 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Call for titles.